

yUUPER News: Feb 2020 Supplement

Board President Offers an Update on Board Activities

While I have not previously written a letter to the Fellowship, I thought I would try something new in 2020 to provide an update on some of the topics the Board and others in the Fellowship are considering.

First, we are happy to be continuing to work with Paul as our lay minister. As many of you know, Paul has increased his effort to $\frac{3}{4}$ -time and plans to lead three Sunday services per month. He has also been working hard in the community, focusing on homelessness and building coalitions with other churches and organizations. (Go to <http://www.keweenawreport.com/c-c-today/copper-country-today-january-19-2020/> for his recent podcast!)

To provide Paul with feedback from the Fellowship, we plan to conduct an evaluation this spring, and we look forward to everyone's input.

In the coming months, we will also look to better utilize UUA resources, including MidAmerica Region workshops and webinars that are part of the Year of Learning and Connection for Smaller Congregations. We've found that other congregations enjoy a lot of valuable experience that we can learn from, and we have some collective wisdom to share, too! If you'd like to participate in these discussions, please let Paul or me know.

The national election will of course be on everyone's mind this year, and we will be supporting the work of *UU the Vote* (<https://www.uua.org/justice/vote2020>) As a Fellowship, we obviously will not endorse any individual candidate, but we

will seek to maintain an atmosphere conducive to discourse on challenging policy issues, while being true to our principles of democracy, inter-dependence, and the inherent worth and dignity of all people.

Throughout the year, many people will continue their work to implement our strategic plan. Religious education was identified as one strategic focus area, and thanks to the efforts of our Children's RE Committee, plans are underway to offer the *Our Whole Lives* (OWL) children's educational program to 4th-6th graders this winter and spring.

We will also be renewing our *Welcoming Congregation* status by updating our LGBTQIA+ programs and outreach, and the work of the Green Sanctuary Committee will continue on numerous fronts, including their support of the 10th Annual Sustainability Film Series.

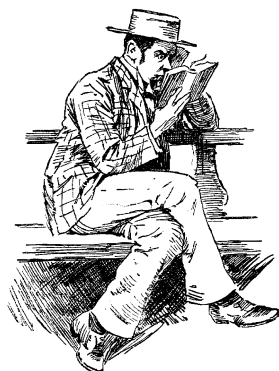
Another goal for this year is to develop, with Paul's assistance, a process for future ministerial searches. (As I dash off this letter just before the newsletter deadline, I'm sure I've left out many important activities, but I hope that those can be featured in upcoming yUUPER issues.)

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy 2020. On behalf of the Board, we appreciate your support and look forward to another great year—and decade—for KUUF!

Sincerely,

Dave Watkins

KUUF Book Review, by Bob Fiandt



Do you like to read philosophical novels? We have an outstanding novel that explains Buddhist philosophy, called *Siddhartha*, by Hermann Hesse (153 pages).

Hesse tells the story of an East Indian man on his spiritual journey towards self-discovery during the time of Gautama Buddha.

Siddhartha actually meets the Buddha as a youth, but he cannot accept the role of a follower. He believes that he must find his destiny on his own. He confronts many trials throughout his life. At the end of his story, *Siddhartha* does find enlightenment.

After reading the novel, I did some online research and discovered an enormous amount of information about this book, including plot summaries, character descriptions, major themes, film versions, quotes, etc.

While originally written in German, there have been numerous other translations. It is critically acclaimed, and it should be “read slowly and with savor.”

Hesse studied Indian philosophy extensively before writing the text and incorporated his ideas into the book.

The main theme of the book is that real life experience is the best way to understand reality and reach enlightenment. It is important to consider one’s entire life, because individual events are meaningless.

The book contains numerous outstanding quotes. Here are a few:

- “Wisdom cannot be imparted. Wisdom that a wise man tries to impart always sounds like foolishness to someone else. . .
- Knowledge can be communicated, but not wisdom. One can find it, live it, do wonders through it, but one cannot communicate and teach it.”
- “When someone seeks,” said *Siddhartha*, “then it easily happens that his eyes see only the thing that he seeks, and he is able to find nothing, to take in nothing because he always thinks only about the thing that he is seeking, because he has one goal, because he is obsessed with his goal. Seeking means having a goal. But finding means being free, being open, having no goal.”
- “It is not for me to judge another man’s life. I must judge, I must choose, I must spurn, purely for myself. For myself, alone.”

Hesse won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1946.

We have one copy of this book ready for check-out.

A testimonial from Jack J. :

“I read and taught *Siddhartha* in the late 1960s as a grad student/teaching assistant; the novel fit perfectly into that terrible decade (political assassinations, Vietnam protests) when many young people looked to eastern philosophy for answers, or at least something that offered respite from the chaos in the country.”